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SUBJECT Communications Centers in Central Asia

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1. The situation in regard to communications centers in Central Asia, as of 1940 and 1941, was unsatisfactory. Only routine administrative systems existed and there were no preparations made for military uses and needs. There were no special provisions for radio installations to be near to or to be used by airfields. Each capital of the five Central Asian Soviet Republics (Kazakh, Uzbek, Turkmen, Tadzhik, and Kirgiz) had fairly powerful radio receiving and broadcasting equipment. The main city of an "oblast" (oblastni tsentr) usually only had radio receiving equipment.
2. In peacetime, military forces and the few military airfields in Central Asia did not have radio installations. They were connected by telephone with civilian radio stations. However, the military district had radio receiving and sending equipment for intelligence purposes (monitoring). The military district headquarters had a radio battalion under the intelligence section. It also had several radio direction finding stations (pelengatornii stantii). These were intended to locate, by triangulation, any radio broadcasts made by foreign agents. [redacted] none was ever located. However, this equipment was used for training purposes.
3. In regard to the types of buildings used by communications centers, they were just normal one story structures. As most of the buildings in

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Central Asia, they were made of brick dried in the sun (sirtsovi kirpich) rather than in a furnace.

4. There were no military units located in the same area as a communications center. A signal battalion (batalion svazi) of a division was always at division headquarters. The military district also had a signal battalion in addition to the radio battalion. The above units received only the usual signal training.

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